

The Epistle

September 2015

**St. John's Lutheran
Red Bud, Illinois**

Church: 508 Bloom Street

618/282-2394

School: 808 South Main Street

618/282-3873

618-282-4087 (fax)

office@stjohnsredbud.org

www.stjohnsredbud.org

Worship: Saturdays at 5 p.m.

Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Christian Education Hour:

Sundays from 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Rev. Mark Nebel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Russell Koen, Pastor

Mrs. Deitt Schneider, Principal

Miss Lindsey Pfanstiel, Director of Parish Music

For Your Devotions

From Lutheran Church Charities

Your Answer Is—God!

***If only I knew where to find him; if only I could go to
his dwelling! Job 23:3***

Job's troubles lasted almost a year. In that year he lost his children, his money, and his health. That's when he prayed, 'Oh, that I knew where I might find Him.' Notice, Job didn't pray, 'Oh, that I knew how to get back my children, my money, and my health.' He focused on none of those things. He realized that when you are in right standing with God, all the rest will fall into place. Here's a truth you learn when you lose what you love: when you've nothing left but God, you discover that God is enough! Much of the book of Job is about him arguing with God and complaining about his lot in life. Are you doing that? If you are, don't worry. God can handle it. As long as your eyes are on Him, He can correct you, teach you, help you, and cause you to grow stronger in faith. Job wasn't privy to what had gone on behind the scenes. He didn't know that a discussion had taken place between God and Satan in which Satan said, 'If You strip Job of all he has, he will curse You' (Job 1:11). But God knew differently, so He allowed Satan to attack Job for a season. When it was over, God hadn't changed His mind about Job and Job hadn't changed his mind about God. The only one who had changed his

mind was Satan! If you're wondering how the story ends: 'The Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning' (Job 42:12). So if you're in trouble today, your answer is—God. Keep trusting Him and He will bring you through victorious!

Prayer

Heavenly Father, help me to really know that no matter what happens or what is taken away from me, You are always there! Thank You – In Jesus' Name, Amen

A Few Minutes for Meditation;

A Few Moments for Memorization

Buried in the middle of the Old Testament is a great passage describing King David's preparations for the building of the temple in Jerusalem by his son Solomon. It is a wonderful description of what stewardship truly is, living a life of joyful faith and generous giving. We continue our previous months' studies with more passages from 1 Chronicles 29:

Verse 21: The next day they made sacrifices to the Lord and presented burnt offerings to Him: a thousand bulls, a thousand rams and a thousand male lambs, together with their drink offerings, and other sacrifices in abundance for all Israel.

What do the people do? _____

To whom do they do this? _____

Whose bulls, rams, lambs did the people offer for sacrifice? _____

What word in the last phrase describes the amount of their offering? "in _____"

What can we learn from the example of the ancient people of God? They made a sacrifice. By definition, this means they offered up to the Lord something of value. Livestock such as they gave did not come cheap. It was not the runts, damaged or leftovers either. They gave God the best of what they had. What is more, they didn't stand around waiting for someone else to make a sacrifice for them. They knew that this was their own responsibility and privilege of offering a gift to the Lord. *Verse 22: They ate and drank with great joy in the presence of the Lord that day.*

Great celebrations usually involve some type of eating and drinking. We could say that God's ancient people proved that they were Lutherans because when they got together there was food and drink!

What words describes their attitude? _____

They could have great joy because they were "in the _____ of the _____ that _____."

When we gather for the Lord's Supper the amount of food and drink is far from a feast, but we still have great joy because in that sacrament we, too, are "in the presence of the Lord." Jesus' true body and blood, given and shed for us on the cross, are present for us under bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins.

Welcome to Our Family of Faith!

August 2 Baptism of Sadie Louise Stellhorn

August 3 Transfer in of Leo, Laura and Maggie
DuFrenne from Trinity Lutheran Church, Prairie

August 3 Transfer in of Rebecca Stevenson and Tripp
Frantz from Peace Lutheran Church, Lemay, Missouri

August 3 Transfer in of Adam and Lisa Guebert from
Grace Lutheran Church, Lafayette, Indiana

BIBLE CLASSES RESUME THIS MONTH IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.: The Book of Exodus

Thursdays at 6:30 a.m.: The Book of Second Chronicles

1st and 3rd Saturdays at 7 a.m.: Men's Bible Breakfast

A Women's Bible class on Romans will start in a few weeks. It will meet in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday's at 8:30 a.m. For more information contact Julie Fehr at 282-4369 or jkfehr@htc.net.

From the Pastor's Desk

For as long as I can remember, I knew that I was adopted. Of course, I knew my birthdate. I also knew that I was born in St. Louis. Later, my parents told me that my birthmother was studying to be a nurse and that my birthfather was studying to be a doctor. They were young and unmarried. I knew my birthmother's name. About ten years ago I found out that I was born at Booth Hospital in St. Louis.

I never tried to find my birthparents, certainly not while Mom and Dad were living. They said it would have been fine with them, but I would have considered it a slap in their faces. They did great for me, so I had no desire to look for any other parents. One drawback to being adopted is not having any medical history. Every new doctor I go to wants to know and all I can say is "I'm adopted and don't know any medical history."

Though I was not looking for my birthparents, I was not opposed to finding them either. I figured that some day it would happen but it still shocked me when it did. My best friend growing up, John, now lives in St. Louis. He called me at the end of April and said he needed to talk to me in person and right away. I cleared the calendar for that evening and drove across the river to meet him. Knowing of my story, he was always interested in adoptions. He said that he had followed a thread on the Internet and found my birthmother. He felt that perhaps he had been snooping in on my life, but I assured him that this was God's timing.

My birthmother's name is Kathleen. She lives in Shreveport, Louisiana. She had signed up on a number of adoption registries in an attempt to find me. John had

found some pictures and even some Facebook posts. What convinced me to contact her was this post, exactly a month after my Mom died: "I have been a birthmom for 48 years and believe the hurt gets worse each year. Have been searching for so long and on so many registries. Closed and sealed adoptions in Missouri are just difficult. I tell myself that my son is happy with his life instead of he might no longer be alive or that he feels unloved by me. I have put it in the Lord's hands."

I wrote her a letter anonymously hoping that she would get it in time for Mother's Day. I had always told myself that if I ever met her I would simply say "Thanks, you did the right thing." However, in good preacher fashion my letter said a lot more just to assure her that I have had a good life. I offered to contact her through her pastor so that she would have pastoral care at this time. After a couple weeks we did get to have a phone conversation. I also have a half-sister, Leslie, who is two years younger and a half-brother, Jimmy, who is six years younger.

Cindy, Mary and I made a quick trip to Shreveport in August to meet them. It was a very good visit. I hope that when our other children have a break from school, all of us can make another trip back there. My birth grandmother is still living at age 96 (she actually was younger than my adopted father!). The first thing she said to me was "I have been praying for you for 51 years." We never know who is lifting us up in prayer.

Your servant in Christ, Pastor Mark Nebel

From the Principal's Pen

We have had a wonderful start to the new school year! Lots of anticipation and excitement surrounded the new addition. Many "home visits" took place in the classrooms to see where the students would need to go on the first day of school! Our theme this year is "Listen To His Voice, Walk His Way" taken from Isaiah 30:21, "And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it,' when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left." We will study the words of God given to us and learn to follow Him.

Our enrollment is 179 in K-8, Preschool-37, and Daycare-65. Our total is 281! We are thankful for all the children we have to hear God's word each and every day!

Thank you to the many hands that helped get the school ready for the start of school. Two weeks before school started it did not look like we could possibly have everything ready. Construction dirt and dust was everywhere and the gym was still full of stuff from everywhere else! As the floors were being finished, little by little, we were able to start moving classrooms back into place. The parking lot was completed after a short

strike. The kitchen basically was finished but we had to clean and move everything back in place. The offices were moved and the new lock and security system was tested and implemented. The phones were reconnected as well as the security cameras. Activity in the building and outside was in a constant state of motion! And, with everyone's help, the job was completed!

The students are excited to be in the new building addition. The Junior High students are happy in their new classrooms. Unfortunately, the new lockers will not be installed till later in September and the new desks did not arrive till today, but I think the students were still happy to be in the new classrooms anyway. Many thanks to Todd Birkner, Byron Falkenhain and Pastor Koen for helping to unload the desks. They just happened to be in the area and offered to help! (I think I really pleaded with them!) Our younger students, grades 3 and 5, got to move into classrooms with lockers! This was a new experience for them! Mrs. Schmitz and Mrs. Letcher have newly painted walls and our Preschool moved back to the Early Childhood wing with an updated classroom as well. The library looks wonderful and now we have moved to an electronic digital system for checking out the books! Mr. Becker had a very dedicated group of people help him get the library ready for the new school year. Our before and after school care now has a room situated by the cafeteria for their use. As all the projects were completed, the building looked like it was ready for school!

What still needs to be done? The music area will need to be remodeled from our old office space. The gym should have the basketball goals and flooring completed by the third week of September. The east door of the school is having a new ramp and steps being poured as I am writing this article. The playground plan is complete and all the equipment will be reinstalled in September. I know the students are really looking forward to having their playground back! A design and plan for the Donation Wall is being worked out and it will not be long before this project is complete. Of course, there are other odds and ends but we are so happy to be as far as we are with the expansion project! To God be all the glory!

Baseball and softball are under way. The 8th grade will have a BBQ on September 13. Mums will once again be sold by the 8th grade and their rummage sale will be October 2 and 3. We will celebrate Grandparent/Special Guest day on Sept. 25 in the morning. Please watch for more information in the bulletin or newsletter.

We give thanks to everyone for all of your support. We are truly blessed!

In His service, Deitt Schneider



Staff Re-Dedication

Our St. John's school & daycare staff re-dedication was held on August 23 in the 10:30 a.m. service. These are the people that serve our Lord and our congregation in their callings and vocations on behalf of our children. They appreciate your prayers, your encouragement and your gifts to our congregation as they work on our behalf and provide for their own families by these jobs they do for us.

Mr. Steve Papenberg, Board of Elders representative, presented certificates and gifts to members of the staff who had special anniversaries. The following people were recognized: Jill Gross-5 years of service to St. John's; Justin Palm-5 years of service to St. John's; Jennifer Pfannebecker-5 years of service to St. John's; Darlene Letcher-10 years of service to St. John's; Pam Henry-15 years of service to St. John's; and Lauri Koen-20 years of service to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Rev. Russell Koen presented Rev. Mark Nebel with a certificate and gift for his 25 years of ministry to The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Front row (l-r): Cindy Ebers, Principal Deitt Schneider, Shawn DeRousse, Betty Schmitz, Cindy Steele, Jill Gross, Stephanie Valleroy, Cindy Nebel, Rachel Miller, Lindsey Pfanstiel, Pastor Russell Koen; Second row (l-r): Julie Ratz, Bill Becker, Lisa Quinn, Pam Henry, Amanda Falkenhain, Pastor Mark Nebel, Michelle Hines, Doreen Schnepel, Darlene Letcher, Lauri Koen and Justin Palm.

Sunday School News

A new year of Christian education in our Sunday School will begin on August 30 with our annual Rally Day celebration. We will begin at 9:25 a.m. at the new entrance to the school (south parking lot) for our opening. We then will go to our classrooms for our first day of lessons. There will be a special treat for our

students before the class ends. Those who have completed their summer Sunday School material should bring it with you for your reward.

On Sunday, September 6, we will replace both Sunday School and Adult Bible Class with a special intergenerational activity in the Fellowship Hall. We hope to have a special guest from our Sunday School Bible lessons. Sunday School classes will resume as normal on September 13.

Senior Youth Activities

NYG 2016 - All senior youth planning to go need to turn in a \$100 non-refundable deposit by August 31. Checks can be made payable to St John's Senior Youth. They can be dropped off at school in an envelope clearly marked senior youth or given directly to Susie Harms. All those wanting to go to the NYG will meet at school on Sunday, Sept. 13 at 6 p.m.

Our regular monthly meeting is Sunday, Sept 13, 7 p.m. at school (a week late due to Labor Day).

160th Anniversary News

We have concluded our confirmation recognitions. This information from our history review can be compiled into booklet form with history only or history plus confirmation years. We will ask for a small donation for those to cover printing and the reimbursement we gave to our anniversary preachers. Contact the church office if you would like a copy of this.

Thank You

“Thank you for the words of wisdom and support that many of you have shared with me, for the encouraging cards and for your many prayers after my diagnosis. Thank you also to the ‘secret angel’ who left a Journal for me to use. It helps me knowing and feeling the support of God’s people, God’s angels, among us. God tells us in James 5:16 ‘pray for one another, that you may be healed.’ May God bless you as you are a blessing to me and my family at this time.” *Lauri Koen*

All Women Are Welcome!

The Women of St John’s are invited to a Hawaiian Luau on **Tuesday, September 15 at 6:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. The time is NOW for our LWML to refocus on our basic common core values: being in God’s Word, missions, service and fellowship. It is imperative that women share with other women the contagious joy that results in getting together. All women are invited! Come hungry, eager to be inspired, entertained and enjoy the fellowship.

Please RSVP to Wanda Steele (282-6732 or Sharon Guebert (282- 6468)

Evening Guild September News

The first meeting after the summer break is scheduled for **September 15 at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall**. Plan to join in the fun and fellowship of a LUAU. Members of the guild are asked to bring appetizers and/or salads of any kind. The committee, along with the Board, has been working hard to make this a special evening.

BLANKET TIE DAY has been scheduled for **September 14, 12:30 to 3:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your scissors and plan for an afternoon of fellowship as blankets are tied for those who are in need.

If you have purchased SOAP, please bring it to the meeting on the 15th. Thanks.

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS! GLORIFY HIS NAME!

September Assistants from the Altar Guild

Flower Servers: Kathy Rowold and Karen Wetzel

Chancel Paraments: Virginia Moeller

Communion Cloths: Olivia Schmitz

Adult Instruction Class

An Adult Instruction Class for the purpose of studying the Christian faith as confessed by the Lutheran Church is forming. This would lead to communicant membership in our congregation for those who are non-members. It is also a good review for those whose confirmation instruction was decades ago. This twelve week class will begin after Labor Day, possibly on Sunday evenings. Please see Pastor Nebel if you are interested.

Sonshine Visitation

With additions to the list of St. John’s members that we visit, we need more visitors to make those visits. If you know how much your elderly parent or grandparent appreciates having visitors, please consider being one of those visitors here for someone else’s family member. Please contact Kathy Liefer if you can help.

“Expansion Project Update”

We are in the homestretch of the expansion project at school. The gym will be getting basketball hoops, a Taraflex floor, bleachers and lobby flooring by the end of September. Outside the east ramp and stairway will be completed, the playground will be set, and landscaping by the new school entrance will happen. The old offices will be converted into a large music room. We are looking for a date in October to have a Dedication and Open House.

Please note that with the new school entrance our mailing address has changed. Anything mailed to the church or school office should now read **808 South Main**. Thank you for noting this change!

We thank all those whose gifts to the Capital Campaign have made this work possible. If you were waiting to see whether this would really happen before making a gift, if you can add to the pledge you made or if you have joined us after the Capital Campaign began, this is the time we could use your support to cover the cost of classroom furnishings. Blue envelopes are available in the entryway for your gift. Thank you!

Donor tiles are being developed for those who made a gift of \$250 or more. If you still would like to do this, forms are available in the church entryway or the office at school. Our deadline for this is September 8.

3rd Annual St. John's Lutheran Church & School Day at Busch Stadium

Let's Go CARDINALS!! It is time to get your family and friends together for a day at Busch Stadium. Tickets are on sale for Saturday, September 26, Cards vs. Brewers at 6:15 p.m. Ticket prices are \$25. Seats are located in section 360/361 (Left Field Pavilion). This is the last home series of the season. Game promotion includes a Lance Berkman Bobble head.

You can text Patty Salger for tickets at 618-910-3371 or email salger2@htc.net. You can also purchase tickets from any member of the Class of 2017. Send money to the school office and tickets will be delivered to you. These tickets would make great gifts too!! Sponsored by St. John's Lutheran School Class of 2017. Contact Patty Salger with your questions.

Away at College, but Close to Home

As many of our young adults leave home for school, help us stay in touch with them. Having their cell phone number for text messages or an email for sending news from the congregation can shorten the distance between them and their family of faith. They can check our website for bulletins and newsletters. We also can put them in touch with local campus ministries. Please contact the church office with the college you are attending. Thank you!

Life Network LifeWalk

Our local Life Network of Waterloo will hold its annual LifeWalk and 5K Run on Saturday, September 19, at the Monroe County Courthouse. Registration is at 7:30 a.m. the 5K run begins at 9 a.m. and the 1.8 mile walk starts at 9:15 a.m.

You can register with a form on the church bulletin board, or at the website www.supportmylifenet.com, call their office at 939-4224 or email dgeist@htc.net. You also can register on the day of the event. All fees will be raised if you raise \$150 or more in pledges.

Acolyte Schedule

Sat. Sept. 5	5 p.m. Alexcis Crafton
Sun. Sept. 6	8 a.m. Kinley Bowles 10:30 a.m. Claire Grohmann
Sat. Sept. 12	5 p.m. Parker van Dorn
Sun. Sept. 13	8 a.m. Ethan Fritsche 10:30 a.m. Jayden Birkner
Sat. Sept. 19	5 p.m. Brandon Voss
Sun. Sept. 20	8 a.m. Reese Foster 10:30 a.m. Lydia Wright
Sat. Sept. 26	5 p.m. Brendan Harms
Sun. Sept. 27	8 a.m. Dylan Falkenhain 10:30 a.m. Sophia Liefer

If you are not able to serve when scheduled, please switch with another acolyte and contact the church office with the change.

Worship Greeter Schedule

We need more volunteers to welcome people to our worship services. This is an important and easy way to serve our Lord and benefit His people with a friendly smile, a kind hello and a welcoming handshake as they enter His house for worship. We have openings for both Sunday morning services and for special festivals. Please contact the office if you are willing to help in this way!

Sat. Sept. 5	5 p.m. Harold and Deb Siegfried
Sun. Sept. 6	8:00 a.m. Ken and Joan Ruwald; Roger Hanebutt & Lois Mesnarich 10:30 a.m. Larry and Cindy Ebers; Vernon and Evelyn Muench
Sat. Sept. 12	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. Sept. 13	8 a.m. Milton and Mary Ann Weber; Clyde and Kathy Rowold 10:30 a.m. Bob and Arlene Pratt; Omer and Neva Liefer
Sat. Sept. 19	5 p.m. Harold and Deb Siegfried
Sun. Sept. 20	8 a.m. Wil and Martha Krick; Cindy Steele and Olivia Schmitz 10:30 a.m. Jackie Aubuchon; Ron and Donna Burgdorf
Sat. Sept. 26	5 p.m. Virginia and Mark Moeller
Sun. Sept. 27	8 a.m. John and Norma Preston; Loren and Nancy Harms 10:30 a.m. Ken and Karen Wetzel; Ron and Diane Kunkelmann

September Church and School Calendar

Tuesday, September 1-

4:14 p.m. BB and SB games at Evansville
7 p.m. Board of Elders meeting in FH

Wednesday, September 2-

8:30 a.m. School Chapel led by Mrs. Steele
10:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting
3:30 p.m. Public School Confirmation classes
4:15 p.m. BB and SB "B" games vs. RB Catholic
7:30 p.m. Bible Class in FH (Exodus)

Thursday, September 3-

6:30 a.m. Bible Class in FH (2 Chronicles)
4:30 p.m. BB and SB versus Smithton
6 p.m. Board of Parish Education in school library

Friday, September 4-

6 p.m. Matzenbacher/Marquadt wedding rehearsal

Saturday, September 5-

7 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in FH
10 a.m. Cross Country at Pinckneyville
2 p.m. Matzenbacher/Marquadt Wedding
5 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

Sunday, September 6-

8 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. All ages Presentation in the Fellowship Hall
10:30 a.m. Divine Service

Monday, September 7- *Labor Day! No School*

Tuesday, September 8-

9:30 a.m. Holy Communion at Red Bud Care Center
4:15 p.m. BB at St. Mary's RC in Chester
6:15 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the balcony
7 p.m. Parent-Teacher League meeting at school
7 p.m. Worship Committee meeting in FH

Wednesday, September 9-

8:30 a.m. School Chapel service at church
10:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting
3:30 p.m. Public School Confirmation classes
7:30 p.m. Bible Class in FH (Exodus)

Thursday, September 10-

6:30 a.m. Bible Class in FH (2 Chronicles)
1 p.m. Sight Ministries Center (meet in church lot)
4:30 p.m. BB and SB versus Coulterville
6 p.m. Liefer/Fuerst wedding rehearsal
7 p.m. Men's Club meeting in FH

Friday, September 11- 4:30 p.m. BB at St. Libory

Saturday, September 12-

10 a.m. Cross Country at Smithton Park
2 p.m. Liefer/Fuerst Wedding
5 p.m. Divine Service

Sunday, September 13-

8 a.m. Divine Service
9:30 a.m. SS, Youth and Adult Bible Classes
10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
11 a.m. to ?? Class of 2016 BBQ at school
6 p.m. National Youth Gathering meeting at school
7 p.m. Senior Youth meeting at school

Monday, September 14-

7:30 p.m. Choir practice in the Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, September 15-

4:15 p.m. BB and SB versus Prairie du Rocher
6:15 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the balcony
7 p.m. Women's Luau in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, September 16-

8:30 a.m. School Chapel service in the church
10:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting
3:30 p.m. Public School Confirmation classes
7:30 p.m. Bible Class in FH (Exodus)

Thursday, September 17-

6:30 a.m. Bible Class in FH (2 Chronicles)
4:30 p.m. Baseball at Holy Childhood
4:30 p.m. Softball at St. James, Millstadt

Friday, September 18- *No School LESA Workshop*

4:30 p.m. BB and SB at TSJ/Okawville

Saturday, September 19-

7 a.m. Men's Bible Breakfast in FH
5 p.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

Sunday, September 20-

8 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 a.m. SS, Youth and Adult Bible Classes
10:30 a.m. Divine Service (alternative)
6 p.m. Sonshine Visitation team meeting

Monday, September 21-

7 p.m. Church Council meeting in the FH
7:30 p.m. Choir practice in the FH

Tuesday, September 22-

1:30 p.m. Holy Communion Service at Garden Place
Baseball and Softball Regional games begin

Wednesday, September 23-

8:30 a.m. School Chapel service in the church
10:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting
3:30 p.m. Public School Confirmation classes
7:30 p.m. Bible Class in FH (Exodus)

Thursday, September 24-

6:30 a.m. Bible Class in FH (2 Chronicles)
1 p.m. Sight Ministries Center (meet in church lot)

Friday, September 25-

9 a.m. Grandparents'/Special Guest Day (11:20 dismiss)

Saturday, September 26-

8 a.m. PTL Golf Tournament at NCCC
5 p.m. Divine Service
6:15 p.m. Class of 2017 Cardinals game fundraiser

Sunday, September 27-

8 a.m. Divine Service
9:30 a.m. SS, Youth and Adult Bible Classes
10:30 a.m. Divine Service with Holy Communion

Monday, September 28- 6th Grade at Camp Wartburg

7:30 p.m. Sunday School Teachers' meeting in library
7:30 p.m. Choir practice in the FH

Tuesday, September 29- 6th Grade at Camp Wartburg

6:15 p.m. Bell Choir practice in the balcony

Wednesday, September 30- *Deadline for October Epistle*

8:30 a.m. School Chapel service in the church
10:30 a.m. Office Staff meeting
3:30 p.m. Public School 6-8th grades Confirmation
7:30 p.m. Bible Class in FH (Exodus)